



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Mental health is essential in maintaining an individual's overall well-being, and mental illness is a major public health concern; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately one in five adults experience some form of mental illness each year. In 2015, there were approximately 43.4 million adults aged 18 and older in the United States afflicted with a mental illness. Currently, there are 1.4 million adults in Georgia who have been diagnosed with a mental illness; and
- WHEREAS: Mental health counselors assist individuals who have difficulty navigating daily life or are suffering from clinical disorders to heal and grow, allowing those afflicted to achieve personal goals, develop self-confidence, and enjoy a better quality of life; and
- WHEREAS: With effective treatment before Stage 4, individuals with mental illnesses, even serious ones, can make progress toward recovery and lead full, productive lives; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia provides resources to help ensure citizens with mental illnesses lead full and productive lives. Mental health care is provided by state and local officials, as well as jails and community hospitals; and
- WHEREAS: In order to best serve those with mental illnesses, it is important to increase public awareness and provide adequate knowledge concerning mental health issues. Georgia recognizes the many organizations and citizens across the state working to support those suffering with mental illnesses through effective treatment, counseling, and expanded research into mental health; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley  
CHIEF OF STAFF